

Remarks

The specification and drawings have been amended so that the reference numerals in the drawings correspond to the correct reference numerals in the drawings. Substitute sheets of drawings are submitted herewith. Several of the claims also have been amended to more clearly define the invention and distinguish it from the references of record. Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowability of claims 9, 11 through 13, 18 through 21 and 30. In view of the several amendments to the claims and the following comments, reconsideration of the rejected claims respectfully is requested.

Each of the claims has been amended to recite a rigid, integral support frame and a set of blades pivotally connected to such frame wherein each of the blades is provided with means operatively interconnecting the support frame and a blade for yieldingly biasing or releasably restraining a section of the blade into engagement with the other blades. It is submitted that neither of the references of record discloses or teaches such structure.

The Karlin et al Patent does not disclose or teach a rigid, integral support frame having an opening therethrough but instead three blade support members swivelably connected to a pair of support locks 8 and 9. Such structure not only is distinguishable from the claimed structure but provides a device that is more complicated in design and more difficult to manipulate. Furthermore, it does not operate in a manner in which the blades in their budding relationship may be inserted into a body cavity and then grasped at the opposite ends thereof and drawn together to retract or angularly displace the inserted ends thereof and thus dilate the cavity for inspection or treatment of the cavity.

Charters also fails to disclose or teach a device for dilating a body cavity including a rigid, integral frame member having an opening therein and a set of blades pivotally connected to such claim which may be inserted into a body cavity in a closed condition and manipulated to an extended condition to dilate the cavity wherein means are provided, operatively interconnecting the frame and the blades, for yieldingly biasing or releasably restraining the blades in their extended positions. The Charters device merely provides a flexible band which urges a set of blades in an extended, spaced relationship and a cable arrangement which functions to draw such blades together to a retracted, abutting relationship, permitting the blades to be inserted within a cavity. Upon insertion of such blades in their retracted, abutting condition. the cable arrangement is then manipulated to free the restraint on the blades, permitting the blades to

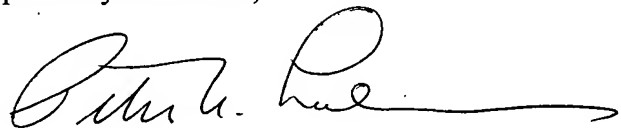
displace outwardly under the biasing action of the resiliently flexible band 15. Both the structure and operation of the Charters device clearly is different from the structure and operation of the claimed invention.

Newly submitted claim 32 more specifically correlates the components of the instrument with their function. In this regard, it is to be noted that either a single or a plurality of individual means may be employed to bias the insertable sections of the blades together to facilitate the insertion of such sections into a body cavity, and either a single means or a plurality of individual means may be employed to releasably restrict the pivotal movements of the blades to hold them apart for performing the intended procedure, and then be released or disengaged to cause the first end sections to be pivoted together into engagement under the action of the biasing means, thus permitting such retracted end sections to be easily removed from the cavity.

In view of the foregoing, it respectfully is requested that the rejection of the claims be withdrawn and further that the application be passed to issue.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees or credit any overpayment of fees in connection with this communication to Deposit Account 19-4375.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter N. Lalos", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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